

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5     1.     In a computerized device, a method for verifying that a module is from an  
approved vendor, the method comprising the steps of:  
         obtaining vendor data and a first magic code from a module;  
         generating a second magic code based on the vendor data; and  
         outputting a magic code valid signal when the second magic code matches  
10     the first magic code, and a magic code invalid signal when the second magic code  
does not match the first magic code.
2.     The method of claim 1 wherein the computerized device includes a memory that  
stores a magic key, and wherein the step of generating includes the steps of:  
15           reading the magic key from the memory of the computerized device; and  
         forming the second magic code based on the magic key and the vendor  
data.
3.     The method of claim 2 wherein the step of forming includes the step of:  
20           performing a message-digest algorithm operation on the magic key and the  
vendor data.
4.     The method of claim 1 wherein the vendor data includes a module serial number,  
and wherein the step of generating includes the step of:  
25           forming the second magic code based on the module serial number.

5. The method of claim 4, further comprising the steps of:
- obtaining a second serial number from a second module; and
  - outputting a serial number valid signal when the module serial number of the vendor data does not match with the second serial number from the second
- 5 module, and a serial number invalid signal when the serial number of the vendor data matches with the second serial number from the second module.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein the vendor data includes a vendor identification
- 10 number, a character string representing a vendor name, and a module serial number; and wherein the step of generating includes the step of:
- forming the second magic code based on the vendor identification number, the character string representing the vendor name, and the module serial number.
7. The method of claim 6 wherein the computerized device includes a memory that
- 15 stores a magic key, and wherein the step of forming includes the steps of:
- reading the magic key from the memory of the computerized device; and
  - providing the second magic code based on the vendor identification number, the character string representing the vendor name, the module serial number, and the magic key.
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8. The method of claim 1 wherein the module is a small form factor pluggable component having a non-volatile memory, and wherein the step of obtaining includes the step of:
- reading the vendor data from the non-volatile memory of the small form
- 25 factor pluggable component.

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9. The method of claim 1 wherein the module is a GBIC communication transceiver component having a non-volatile memory, and wherein the step of obtaining includes the step of:
- 5 reading the vendor data from the non-volatile memory of the GBIC communication transceiver component.
10. A computerized device, comprising:
- a module; and
- a controller, coupled to the module, which is configured to
- 10 obtain vendor data and a first magic code from the module,
- generate a second magic code based on the vendor data, and
- 15 output a magic code valid signal when the second magic code matches the first magic code, and a magic code invalid signal when the second magic code does not match the first magic code.
11. The computerized device of claim 10 wherein the controller includes:
- 20 a processor; and
- a memory, coupled to the processor, that stores a magic key, wherein the processor is configured to generate the second magic code by (i) reading the magic key from the memory, and (ii) forming the second magic code based on the magic key and the vendor data.
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12. The computerized device of claim 11 wherein the processor is configured to form the second magic code by performing a message-digest algorithm operation on the magic key and the vendor data.

13. The computerized device of claim 10 wherein the vendor data includes a module serial number, and wherein the controller is configured to generate the second magic code by forming the second magic code based on the module serial number.
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14. The computerized device of claim 13 wherein the computerized device includes a second module, and wherein the controller is further configured to:
- obtain a second serial number from the second module; and
- output a serial number valid signal when the module serial number of the
- 10 vendor data does not match with the second serial number from the second module, and a serial number invalid signal when the serial number of the vendor data matches with the second serial number from the second module.
15. The computerized device of claim 10 wherein the vendor data includes a vendor identification number, a character string representing a vendor name, and a
- 15 module serial number, and wherein the controller is configured to generate the second magic code by forming the second magic code based on the vendor identification number, the character string representing the vendor name, and the module serial number.
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16. The computerized device of claim 15 wherein the controller includes:
- a processor; and
- a memory, coupled to the processor, that stores a magic key, wherein the
- 25 processor is configured to form the second magic code by (i) reading the magic key from the memory of the computerized device, and (ii) providing the second magic code based on the vendor identification number, the character string representing the vendor name, the module serial number, and the magic key.

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17. The computerized device of claim 10 wherein the module is a small form factor pluggable component having a non-volatile memory, and wherein the controller is configured to obtain the vendor data by reading the vendor data from the non-volatile memory of the small form factor pluggable component.
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18. The computerized device of claim 10 wherein the module is a GBIC communication transceiver component having a non-volatile memory, and wherein the controller is configured to obtain the vendor data by reading the vendor data from the non-volatile memory of the GBIC communication transceiver component.
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19. A computer program product having instructions stored thereon, the instructions being capable of configuring a computer to:
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- obtain vendor data and a first magic code from a module;
  - generate a second magic code based on the vendor data; and
  - output a magic code valid signal when the second magic code matches the first magic code, and a magic code invalid signal when the second magic code does not match the first magic code.
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20. A small form factor pluggable module, comprising:
- operating circuitry;
  - a memory, coupled to the operating circuitry, that stores vendor data including (i) an error-checking value, and (ii) a non-error-checking magic code which is generated by performing a magic code operation on at least a portion of
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- the vendor data and a magic key.

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21. The small form factor pluggable module of claim 20 wherein the vendor data includes the error-checking value, a vendor identification number, a character string representing a vendor name, and a module serial number, and wherein the non-error-checking magic code is generated by performing, as the magic code operation, a message-digest algorithm operation on the vendor identification number, the character string representing the vendor name, the module serial number and the magic key.
22. A computerized device, comprising:
- 10 a module; and
  - a controller coupled to the module, the controller including:
    - means for obtaining vendor data and a first magic code from the module,
    - means for generating a second magic code based on the vendor data, and
    - 15 means for outputting a magic code valid signal when the second magic code matches the first magic code, and a magic code invalid signal when the second magic code does not match the first magic code.

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